



Department of Energy  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

OCT 29 1998

Mayor James Matayoshi  
Rongelap Atoll Local Government Council  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
P.O. Box 1766  
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mayor Matayoshi,

Thank you for your letter of October 28, 1998, regarding our November trip to Rongelap. Mr. William Jackson, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Field Operations Manager, informed me yesterday that you plan to meet us on Rongelap and show us around the island. I appreciate your taking the time to do this, and I look forward to this visit.

The reason for my wanting to visit Rongelap is to familiarize myself with the island, meet the people involved in the important work to resettle it, and spend time with you. It is not my intention to use the November trip as an occasion to locate a site for DOE trailer housing units. Such an action on DOE's part would be premature given that the proposed DOE/Rongelap Memorandum of Understanding has yet to be finalized.

I look forward to close cooperation and coordination between DOE and the Rongelap Atoll Local Government and its contractor as the Rongelap Resettlement Project progresses. I regret the apparent misunderstanding concerning the purpose of our visit to Rongelap next month. I very much look forward to spending that time with you and hearing your perspective on the future of the Rongelap Resettlement Project and related issues.

Sincerely,

Frank Hawkins  
Director  
Office of International  
Health Programs

cc: Howard Hills, Esq.



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# RONGELAP ATOLL LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

P.O. Box 1766, MAJURO, MH 96960

PH: 692-625-8271/8104; FAX: 692-625-3400/4667

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October 28, 1998

Mr. Frank Hawkins, Director  
Office of International Health Programs  
U.S. Department of Energy  
EH-63 / 270CC  
Germantown, MD 20874-1290

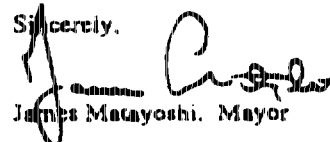
Dear Mr. Hawkins:

It has come to our attention that a trip to Rongelap has been scheduled for November to locate a site for the DOE trailer housing units to be used by monitoring staff. The fact that this information comes to us second-hand and that we were not advised of this trip is disappointing to us. We feel left out of a very important decision-making process that had direct and major consequences for the RRP. Furthermore, the assistance that we could have made available in planning this trip remains completely untapped.

Henceforth we expect to be informed of important information such as this. It is important that we review all requests to land on Rongelap. Any request for clearance to land on Rongelap must be approved by RALGOV. Careful coordination with the contractor, PII is also advisable. As you and your staff at DOE go about meeting obligations to the Rongelapese, it is best to keep these details in mind and to keep us informed and involved in the process. The Rongelap Resettlement Project is an awesome undertaking and we must all cooperate and work together to keep it on track.

Please keep these considerations in mind and we look forward to further discussion with you on planning future activities related to the RRP.

Sincerely,

  
James Matayoshi, Mayor

cc: Howard Hills